

The Brethren Evangelist

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TERMS

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(Continued from page 3)

the last two weeks. He is better now and hopes to take up the work again as usual.

Brother J. L. Kimmel has been busy for some weeks in revival work in the several congregations of which he is the pastor, the last one being at Ankenytown.

In this issue appears the portrait with brief biography of brother J. H. Knepper, the pastor of the Meyersdale congregation. Our next portrait will be that of Brother Summers with an outline sermon. This one will be followed by that of Brother Gillin also with a sermon.

A bit of church news from Brother Teeter, Milledgeville, Ill., announces that the congregation of which he is pastor collected \$41.28 missionary money on Christmas day for the National Board. Brother Teeter evidently was in earnest when he made his announcement for that collection, and it is apparent that the people did not misunderstand it. A similar contribution from every other congregation in the brotherhood would have put into the treasury of the Board the neat sum of \$8,000. That however could not be expected, yet it would be but reasonable that the congregations thru-out the brotherhood should have averaged one-fourth that amount, or \$2,000.

Brother Knepper and family, Meyersdale, Pa., were very pleasantly remembered on Christmas day. The sisters of that congregation deserve much credit and we trust their example will be followed by others. Nothing more important could possibly be placed in a parsonage than a bath tub. "Johnny" knows and has always observed that "cleanliness is next to godliness," but now that old saying is much easier put into practice.

TWO MEN AND THEIR TEACHINGS

C. ORVILLE WITTER

Among the many who have passed away during the year that has just closed there were two great men. Men who were known in all parts of the world and who have addressed audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. The addresses of each which have attracted the throngs to hear them were almost altogether connected with one book—the Bible.

Ingersoll and Moody. Who would have thought that these two names would ever be coupled together? However, their deaths coming so close together can not but bring the two men before us for comparison and contrast.

In comparing the two men we find them strikingly contemporaneous. Ingersoll was born in 1832 and Moody in 1837 and both died in 1899, thus bringing them into public life at exactly the same time. Both were of humble birth; Ingersoll being the son of a Presbyterian minister and Moody the son of a farmer. Both were possessed of extraordinary power to sway audiences.

Ingersoll was doubtless the greater from an oratorical standpoint alone. No one could sit before him and hear him lecture without being profoundly impressed with the remarkable power and magnetism of the man. I have seen him make people laugh at things they held most sacred. At things which under ordinary circumstances they would not have laughed had they saved a right hand by so doing. He was a man who literally held the reins of emotion in his own hand and pulling one his audience laughed, pulling the other they wept. Surely a great orator. His eulogies of his heroes are couched in words the beauty of which have never been excelled by any orator.

Moody was also endowed with this power of oratory. Deprived of the early training that was accorded to Ingersoll, he still was a mighty power in rousing the diviner feelings of men. Into the room where Moody was speaking came many a weary soul with heart heavy and sad, and went out with the smile of joy and peace which they will wear forever. Many a bold and brazen transgressor entered with the smile of effrontery and the sneer of scorn upon his lip and left with the sense of a weight of sin and guilt upon his heart that only the Savior whom Moody preached could remove.

Both men were physically strong and possessed great individuality and perseverance, and the greater part of their lives and energies spent and their reputation gained by their exposition of the scriptures.

But in this last likeness is also the greatest contrast between the two men. Ingersoll sought to decry and depreciate the value of the Bible by his addresses and lectures while Moody exalted and placed the highest value known upon the Book of Books.

So they lived and labored for years. One trying to destroy the most blessed hope and faith ever given to humanity and the other

trying to lift men and women from the depths of degradation and sin into that free and true life of service in Jesus Christ. They have lived and died. Ingersoll snatched away without a moments warning, his last words a jest. Moody lay for days upon a bed of pain and his last words showed the living beauty of the truth he had preached all these years. "The world is receding and heaven opening."

Both men have gone to their reward but what have they left behind? Ingersoll in his lecture on Thomas Paine said: "There is but one test by which to measure any man who has lived. Did he leave this world better than he found it?" There is no doubt but the colonel left this world better than he found it but it was not by his contribution that it was made better.

One could not but notice the contrast in the editorials written after the death of each. Ingersoll was mourned by few? Moody by the civilized world. The consensus of opinion, not of religious writers alone but of secular writers as well, was that Ingersoll's life had been a failure. He destroyed but he never built up anything to take the place of what he destroyed. From some he took the only comfort of the sick room and the dying hour and gave nothing in return—yea worse than nothing—he gave a serpent.

But what has Moody left us. Let us go to Northfield and Mt. Hermon and Chicago and there we will find the monument of Moody. Schools for the spreading of the Gospel, "the power of salvation to Jew and Gentile." Truly a noble monument in memory of a noble man. Upon this monument is not engraved his epitaph. That is engraved upon a more lasting substance, upon the hearts of tens of thousands of human beings who love him as the one who led them to the One who died that all might have eternal life. That epitaph will endure forever; it is an inheritance that fadeth not away.

A few years and the great agnostic will be forgotten by the world at large but the great evangelist has left a name to be treasured for generations to come. One the apostle of darkness and despair, the other the apostle of light and hope. One iconoclastic, inconsistent and seeking the approbation of men, the other altruistic, consistent and seeking the approval of God. One kicking the crutches of hope from the lame and the halt, the other stooping to lift up the fallen brother from the gutter to partake of the bread of life. One has sown a large sowing of tares and the sheaves he will bring in will be sheaves of tares, but the other has sown a greater sowing of wheat and what a glorious day it will be when all those sheaves are brought in. Words fail to express the harm the utterance of one has done and words fail as well to express the proper tribute to the other for the good he did.

Each one may do something to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord into the hearts of the people.